

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

-----001008 311647Z /41

R 301600Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6171

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MZ

SUBJECT: MEETING OF FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS AND DRAWS UP MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST POST-INDEPENDENCE ELECTORAL LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. THE 67-MEMBER FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET FOR TWO DAYS ON AUGUST 28 AND 29. MEETING WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO A REVIEW OF FRELIMO ACTIVITIES SINCE FRELIMO'S THIRD PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY 1977 AND THE FORMULATION OF AN ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO TEN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND ONE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PRESIDENT MACHEL CHAIRED MEETING AND GAVE SHORT OPENING ADDRESS, PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 29 NOTICIAS.

3. FRELIMO ACTIVITIES: IN HIS SPEECH MACHEL NOTED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN BRINGING TO COUNTRY'S ECONOMY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER GREATER STATE CONTROL. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE NATIONALIZATION OF SONAP/SONAREP (THE COUNTRY'S ONLY OIL REFINERY), THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF NEW PARASTATAL COMPANIES IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY TO ENSURE THAT FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS REACHED ALL THE PEOPLE IN AMPLE QUANTITIES. IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH

HE CHARACTERIZED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR, MACHEL SAID STATE PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. MACHEL ASSERTED THAT GREATER STATE CONTROL AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO END "IMPERIALIST" DOMINATION OF MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMY.

4. NATIONAL ELECTIONS: MACHEL SAID THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS TO DRAFT AN ELECTORAL LAW IN ORDER TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES. DURING THE ARMED STRUGGLE, MACHEL, SAID, FRELIMO HAD LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF LETTING THE PEOPLE DISCUSS AND SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. UNDER FRELIMO GUIDANCE, THIS PRACTICE WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN POST-INDEPENDENCE MOZAMBIQUE. MACHEL CALLED THE DECISION TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS AND TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES " A HISTORIC MARK IN THE CONSOLIDATION" OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER AND A "DECISIVE STEP IN THE CONSOLIDATION" OF MOZAMBIQUE'S REVOLUTION.

5. RESULTS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING: PRESS AUGUST 30 REPORTED THE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD CONCLUDED ITS DELIBERATIONS THE PREVIOUS DAY AND HAD APPROVED A PROPOSED ELECTORAL LAW. NO DETAILS OF THE LAW WERE REVEALED. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PROPOSED LAW WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AND EXPANDED GROUPING OF THE FRELIMO'S MOST IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERS, FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ON AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 1.

6. BACKGROUND AND COMMENT. THE ONLY MAJOR SURPRISE DURING FRELIMO'S THIRD PARTY CONGRESS WAS PRESIDENT MACHEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN MOZAMBIQUE ON FEBRUARY 7, 1978. THE RECENT MEETING OF THE FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE REFLECTS THE PARTY'S INTENTION TO PUSH AHEAD WITH ITS ELECTION PLANS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAND FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, MACHEL HAS MADE IT CLEAR (IN HIS LATEST SPEECH TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND IN HIS EARLIER ADDRESS TO THE DELEGATES AT THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS) THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED IN A MANNER THAT WILL ENSURE FRELIMO'S CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO01047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770315-0151
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977089/aaaaagxj.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1142e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1687064
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1142e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009